

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT FOR THE DISTRICT OF PUERTO RICO  
BEFORE HONORABLE DANIEL R. DOMINGUEZ

**MINUTES OF PROCEEDINGS**

DATE: March 26th, 2001

CIVIL NO. 97-1442 (DRD)

LAW CLERK: Carlos D. Rivas

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UNITED STATES OF AMERICA,

Attorneys: MacLaughlin, Jerome  
Friedman, Henry  
Shaaf, Henry  
Shapiro, Naomi  
Del Carmen-Rodriguez, Lourdes

Plaintiff,

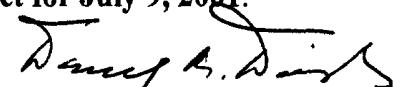
v.

TROPICAL FRUIT, S.P.,  
Defendant.

MELENDEZ, Oscar  
SIFRE, Jaime

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A SETTLEMENT CONFERENCE was held today. Defendant's Motion Requesting Continuance (Docket No. 68) and the Parties Joint Motion to Set Aside Dates (Docket No. 69) were thus GRANTED/MOOT as modified by the instant Order. The parties informed the Court that they had met earlier in the day to pursue their strong interest in reaching a settlement, and that they had made significant progress. The two critical issues that remain are the extent of the insecticide spray-free buffer zone, and the penalties against Defendant that the Environmental Protection Agency still seeks. The United States indicated that it would consult with its scientific experts regarding alternative methods of pesticide application that would allow preservation of the maximum possible quantity of Defendant's crops. The Court noted that the parties are clearly negotiating in good faith and have made encouraging progress, and ORDERED that a further SETTLEMENT CONFERENCE be held on May 8, 2001 at 4:30pm. Notwithstanding, the Court advised the parties that, in light of the time that this case has been pending, they should be prepared for trial, which is hereby set for July 9, 2001.



DANIEL R. DOMINGUEZ  
U.S. DISTRICT JUDGE

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